

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of : IMPROVEMENTS IN OR RELATING  
Francis Xavier Kay : TO VALVES  
Serial Number: Not yet Accorded : Attorney Docket Number 063030-00080  
: Filing Date: Filed herewith

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC  
600 Grant Street – 44<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219  
May 9, 2005

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows.

**Amendments to the Claims**

Amendments to the claims are reflected in the listing of claims beginning on Page 2  
of this paper.